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background notes

Kuwait

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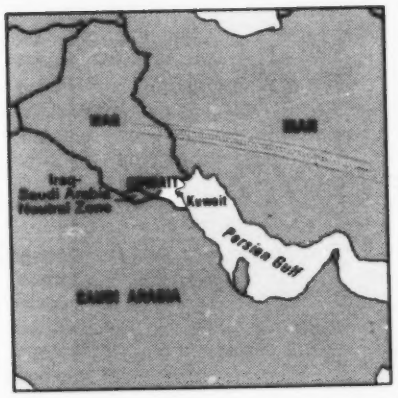


Official Name: State of Kuwait

PROFILE

People

Nationality: *Noun and adjective*—Kuwaiti(s). **Population** (1985): 1.7 million (680,000 Kuwaitis, 1.02 million expatriates). **Annual growth rate** (including immigration): 4.5%, Kuwaiti 3.8%. **Ethnic groups:** Arab 84%, South Asian, Iranian, Southeast Asian. **Religion:** Islam 85%. **Languages:** Arabic (official); English widely spoken. **Education** (free through high school): *Years compulsory*—8. *Literacy*—about 71% over age 10. **Health:** *Infant mortality rate*—26.1/1,000 (Kuwaiti). *Life expectancy*—70 yrs. **Work force** (1985): 566,000. *Social services*—45%. *Construction*—20%. *Trade, hotels, and restaurants*—12.1%. *Manufacturing*—8.6%. *Finance and real estate*—2.6%. *Agriculture and fishing*—1.9%. *Power and water*—1.7%. *Mining and quarrying*—1.4% (1980 breakdown).

Geography

Area: 17,818 sq. km. (about 6,880 sq. mi.); slightly smaller than New Jersey. **Cities:** *Capital*—Kuwait (pop. about 1 million). *Other towns*—Ahmadi, Jahra, Fahaheel. **Terrain:** Desert. **Climate:** intensely hot and dry in summers; short, cool winters.

Government

Type: Constitutional monarchy. **Independence:** June 19, 1961. **Constitution:** 1962.

Branches: *Executive*—Amir (head of state). *Legislative*—elected National Assembly of 50 members. *Judicial*—present judicial system instituted by a 1959 Amiri decree.

Political parties: None. **Suffrage:** Adult males who resided in Kuwait before 1920 and their male descendants (eligible voters—56,848, 8.3% of citizenry).

Subdivisions: Government is centralized, but for administrative purposes there are four governorates: Kuwait City, Hawalli, Ahmadi, and Jahra.

Central government budget (1983–84): *Revenues*—$15.2 billion. *Expenditures*—$10.7 billion.

Flag: Three horizontal stripes (green, white, and red) joining a black trapezoid at the staff side.

Economy

GDP (1984): $22 billion. **Annual growth rate:** 5.4% (1984). **Per capita GDP** (1984): $13,200.

Natural resources: Petroleum, fish, shrimp.

Agriculture: Most food is imported. *Cultivated land*—1%.

Industry: *Types*—petroleum and petroleum related, crude and refined oil, fertilizer, chemicals, construction materials. Water desalinization capacity 618 million liters per day (1983 preliminary).

Trade (1985): *Exports and reexports*—$11.3 billion: oil 85%. *Major partners*—Japan (25.9% of Kuwaiti market in 1983), US (10.9% of market in 1983), FRG (10.2% in 1983), Italy (8.7% in 1983). *Imports*—$7 billion: manufactured goods, foodstuffs, crude materials, machinery and transport equipment. *Major suppliers*—Japan about 25%, FRG, UK, US 9%–12% (motor vehicles and parts, transportation, air conditioning and refrigeration, construction, military equipment). *Total US* (1980–84)—$835 million; $635 million (1984).

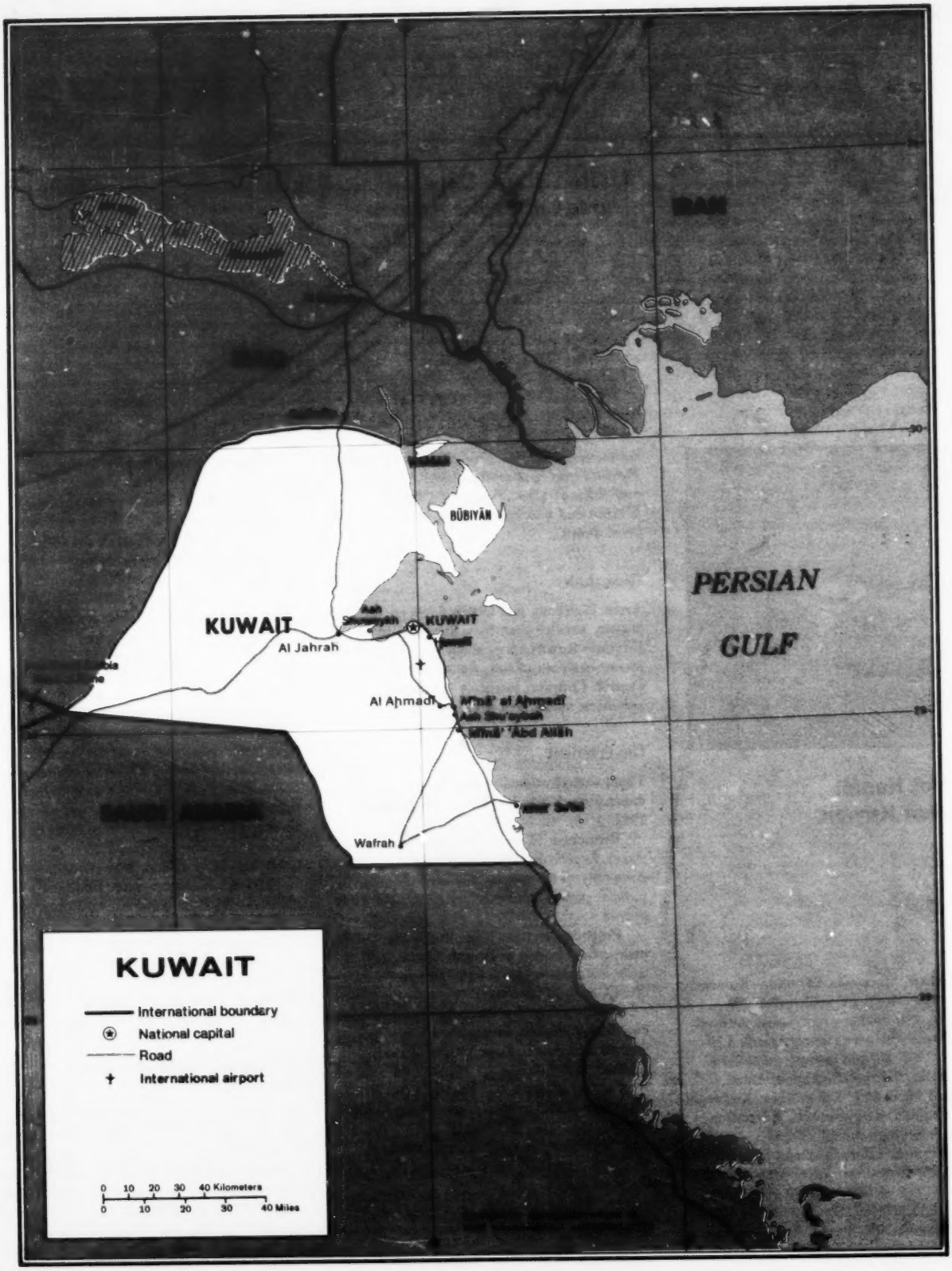
Official exchange rate (1984): 1 Kuwaiti dinar = US$3.29 or 0.304 Kuwaiti dinar = US$1.

Fiscal year: July 1–June 30.

Economic aid extended (1961–mid-1984): $4.18 billion (Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development). *Other development assistance*—$630 million; also other loans and grants, largely since 1967.

Membership in International Organizations

UN and some of its specialized and related agencies, including World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); Arab League; Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC); INTELSAT; Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC); Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC); Non-Aligned Movement.


KUWAIT
PERSIAN
GULF
BŪBIYĀN
KUWAIT
Al Jahrah
Al Aḥmadī
Wafrah
KUWAIT
International boundary
National capital
Road
International airport
0 10 20 30 40 Kilometers
0 10 20 30 40 Miles

PEOPLE

The people of the State of Kuwait (koo-WAIT) are primarily Arab in origin, but only 40% are indigenous. Many Arabs from nearby states have taken up residency in Kuwait, especially since oil production began to bring prosperity in the late 1940s. Kuwait also has sizable Iranian and Indian communities. Most native Kuwaitis are Sunni Muslims (70%) or Shi'a Muslims (30%); there is a very small number of Kuwaiti Christians. The literacy rate, estimated at about 71%, is one of the highest in the Arab world. This is due in part to government support for the educational system. Public school education, including Kuwait University, is free, but access is restricted for foreign residents. The government sends qualified students abroad for degrees not offered at Kuwait University. About 3,500 Kuwaitis are students in the United States. In addition, more than 3,000 Kuwaiti military personnel have participated in U.S. Department of Defense training, including senior service schools and basic skills courses.

GEOGRAPHY

Kuwait is located in the northeastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula, bounded on the north and west by Iraq, on the south by Saudi Arabia, and on the east by the Persian Gulf. Summer temperatures reach 54°C (130°F). Rainfall averages less than 10 centimeters (4 in.) annually. Kuwait City, the capital, main port, and commercial center, is home to two-thirds of the population.

Courtesy United Nations/Rice

Before the advent of tremendous oil revenues, most Kuwaitis relied on traditional livelihoods such as nomadic herding. Such occupations are now followed by a very small and dwindling segment of the population.

HISTORY

Kuwait's modern history began in the 18th century with the founding of the city of Kuwait by members of the Uteiba section of the Anaiza tribe, who wandered north from the region of Qatar. Its first definite contact with Western states was between 1775 and 1779, when the British-operated Persian Gulf-Aleppo Mail Service was diverted through Kuwait from Persian-occupied Basra (in Iraq).

During the 19th century, Kuwait tried to obtain British support to maintain its independence from the Turks and various powerful Arabian Peninsula groups. In 1899, the ruler Shaikh Mubarak Al-Sabah "the Great" signed an agreement with the United Kingdom pledging himself and his successors neither to cede any territory nor to receive agents or representatives of any foreign power without the British Government's consent. The British in return agreed to grant an annual subsidy to support the Shaikh and his heirs and to afford them the United Kingdom's protection. Until 1961, Kuwait enjoyed special treaty relations with the United Kingdom, which handled Kuwait's foreign affairs and was responsible for its security. Mubarak was followed as ruler by his son Jabir (1915–17) and another son Salim (1917–21). Subsequent amirs descend from these two brothers. Shaikh Ahmad al-Jabir Al-Sabah ruled from 1921 until his death in 1950, and Shaikh Abdullah al-Salim Al-Sabah from 1950 to 1965. By early 1961, the British had withdrawn their special court system, which handled the cases of foreigners resident in Kuwait, and the Kuwait Government began to exercise legal jurisdiction under new laws drawn up by an Egyptian jurist. On June 19, 1961, Kuwait became fully independent following an exchange of notes with the United Kingdom.

Kuwait's northern border with Iraq dates from an agreement with Turkey in 1913. Although the agreement was never formally ratified, Iraq accepted it in 1932 upon independence from Turkey. However, Iraq claimed Kuwait in 1961, contending that before British intervention, it had been part of the Ottoman Empire under Iraqi suzerainty. Although Iraq and Kuwait today enjoy friendly relations, they still have not formally agreed on their border. The

boundary with Saudi Arabia was set by the Treaty of Uqair in 1922, which also established the Kuwait-Saudi Arabia Neutral Zone, an area of about 5,180 sq. km. (2,000 sq. mi.) adjoining Kuwait's southern border. In December 1969, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement dividing the Neutral Zone (now known as the Divided Zone) and demarcating a new international boundary. However, efforts to reach agreement on the northern boundary of the Divided Zone's territorial waters have been unsuccessful. Both countries share equally the Divided Zone's petroleum, onshore and offshore.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

The State of Kuwait has been ruled by the Sabah family since 1751. The 1962 constitution contains detailed provisions on the powers and relationships of the branches of government and on the rights of citizens. Upon the death of an amir, the crown prince assumes his position. A new crown prince is then selected by members of the Sabah family from among the direct descendants of Mubarak the Great. Under the constitution, this designation is subject to the approval of the National Assembly. Since independence, there have been orderly successions in 1965 and 1978.

Kuwait's first National Assembly was elected in 1963, with follow-on elections held in 1967, 1971, and 1975. However, it was suspended in 1976 when serious inter-Arab tensions were reflected in the assembly. The assembly was reinstituted early in 1981, after heatedly contested elections, with the inauguration of the fifth parliament. There are no political parties in Kuwait, and candidates compete as independents. Nevertheless, there are several groups, including Arab nationalists and Islamic fundamentalists, who in the aftermath of 1985 elections functioned as de facto party members. As of mid-1985, the National Assembly contained representatives of most of Kuwait's interest groups and had a significant impact on Kuwait's government.

A 1964 law authorized formation of labor unions under detailed government regulation. Employees in the government, petroleum, and banking sectors have formed unions.

Kuwait has experienced an unprecedented era of prosperity under Amir Sabah al-Salim Al-Sabah, who died in 1977 after ruling for 12 years, and under his successor, the present ruler, Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al-Sabah. They have transformed the country into a highly developed welfare state with a free market economy. Since 1982, depressed oil prices and demand, loss of trade due to the Iran-Iraq war, and the collapse of the extra-official stock market have created serious economic problems but have not greatly affected the quality of life for most residents.

Principal Government Officials

Amir—His Highness Shaikh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah
Crown Prince, Prime Minister—Saad al-Abdullah al-Salim Al Sabah
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs—Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah

Other Ministers
Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs—Rashid Abdul Aziz al-Rashid
Defense—Salim al-Sabah al-Salim Al Sabah
Interior—Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah
Information—Nasser Muhammad al-Ahmad Al Sabah
Communications—Isa Muhammad Ibrahim al-Mazidi
Health and Planning—Dr. Abd al-Rahman Abdallah al-Awadi
Public Works and Housing—Abdul Rahman al Houti
Oil and Industry—Ali al-Khalifa al-Athbi Al Sabah
Finance and Economy—Jassim Muhammad al-Khorafi
Justice—Khalid Ahmad Al-Jasser, Acting
Social Affairs and Labor—Khaled Salem al-Jumayan
Education—Dr. Hassan Ibrahim
Awkaf and Islamic Affairs—Khalid Ahmed al-Jasser
Electricity and Water—Muhammad Abdul Mohsen al-Refai

Ambassador to the United States—Saud Nasir Al Sabah
Ambassador to the United Nations—Mohammad Abu al-Hasan

Kuwait maintains an embassy in the United States at 2940 Tilden Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20008 (tel. 202-966-0702).

ECONOMY

Kuwait is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. In 1984 the per capita gross domestic product was $13,200. Kuwaitis, who make up 40% of the total population, enjoy a relatively greater share of the wealth than expatriates, many of whom are employed in unskilled and semiskilled jobs.

This wealth is largely based on Kuwait's dominant exports of oil and capital. Oil accounts for 85% of merchandise exports and for almost two-thirds of government revenues. Income from foreign investments make up most of the balance of public revenues. This wealth is based on the ten-fold increase in oil prices during the 1970s which Kuwait, through its membership in OPEC, actively promoted. The recent downturn in world demand for OPEC [Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries] oil was the principal reason for the recession in Kuwait. Per capita GDP fell from a high of $20,000 in 1980 to $12,700 in 1982. It has since begun a gradual recovery.

The war between Iran and Iraq cut off previously lucrative reexports to those countries. The massive collapse in 1982 of an extra-official stock market created repercussions that to this day still affect the economy.

Oil

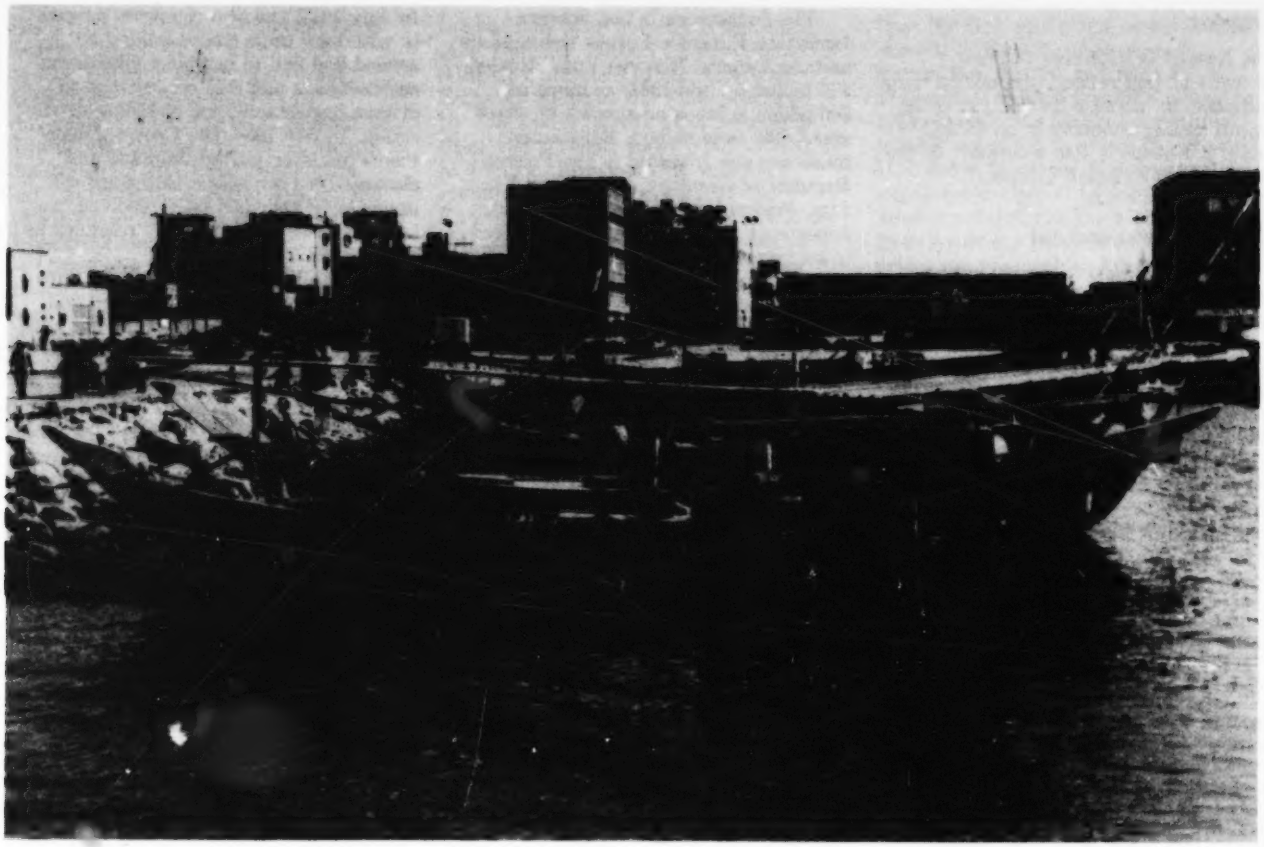
In 1937, the ruler of Kuwait granted an oil concession to the Kuwait Oil Co. (KOC), jointly owned by the British Petroleum Co. and Gulf Oil Corp. In 1976, the Kuwaiti Government nationalized KOC.

The following year, Kuwait took over onshore production in the Divided Zone between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. KOC produces jointly there with Texaco Inc., which by its 1984 purchase of Getty Oil Co. acquired the Saudi Arabian concession onshore in the Divided Zone.

Offshore in the Divided Zone, the Arabian Oil Co., owned 80% by Japanese interests and 10% each by the Kuwaiti and Saudi Governments, has produced on behalf of both countries since 1961.

The Kuwait Petroleum Corp. (KPC), an integrated international oil company, is the parent company of all of the government's operations in the petroleum sector, and includes KOC, which produces oil and gas; Kuwait National Petroleum Co., refining and domestic sales; Petrochemical Industries Co., producing ammonia and urea; Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co., with several concessions in developing countries; Kuwait Oil Tanker Co.; and Santa Fe International Corp. The latter, purchased outright in 1982, gives KPC a worldwide presence in the petroleum industry.

Santa Fe continues to operate as an American company, and has acquired Occidental Oil Company's geothermal facilities in California and other U.S. companies. A 1982 ruling by the Department of the Interior that KPC could not



Fishing dhows still dock along Kuwait's shores. Their use, however, is rapidly dying out.

use Santa Fe's concessions on federal lands was reversed in 1985.

KPC has also purchased from Gulf Oil Co. refineries and associated service stations in the Benelux and Scandinavia, as well as storage facilities and a network of service stations in Italy. KPC is interested in possible further acquisitions in the United States and in Japan.

Kuwait has more than 66 billion barrels of recoverable oil; only Saudi Arabia has substantially more. Estimated capacity is about 2.4 million barrels per day (b/d), but because of Kuwait's oil conservation policy, production is officially limited to 1.5 million b/d (1.25 million excluding Kuwait's share of the Divided Zone production).

Because of the soft world oil market, Kuwait produced only a little more than a million b/d in 1983, and at the end of 1984 accepted an OPEC production quota of 900,000 b/d. Although oil prices have fallen, Kuwait's extremely low production costs continue to leave a large profit margin. In addition, Kuwait is expanding its refineries so that by 1987, at present production levels, most petroleum exports will be in the form of refined products.

Social Benefits

The government has sponsored many social welfare, public works, and development plans financed with oil revenues. Among the benefits for Kuwaiti citizens are retirement income, marriage bonuses, housing loans, virtually guaranteed employment, free medical services, and education at all levels. Foreign nationals residing in Kuwait obtain some but not all of the welfare services. The right to own stock in publicly traded companies, real estate, or majority interest in a business is limited to Kuwaiti citizens.

Industry and Development

Industry in Kuwait consists of several large export-oriented petrochemical units, three oil refineries, and a range of small manufacturers. It also includes large water distillation plants and ammonia, desulfurization, fertilizer, brick, block, and cement plants. Plans for expansion and modernization include major projects in oil refining, petrochemicals, electricity, water supply, highway construction, housing, and telecommunications. The government's 1985–90 5-year plan projects domestic investment expenditure to be KD25 billion.

Agriculture

Agriculture is limited by the lack of water, but there is some horticulture in areas near the Saudi and Iraq borders. The government has experimented in growing food through hydroponics (a technique of growing plants in solutions). Fish and shrimp are plentiful in territorial waters, and large-scale commercial fishing has been undertaken locally and in the Indian Ocean.

Shipping

The Kuwait Oil Tankers Co. has 23 crude oil and refined product carriers and plans to increase its fleet. It is the largest tanker company in an OPEC country. Kuwait is also a member of the United Arab Shipping Company.

Trade, Finance, and Aid

The Kuwaiti dinar is a strong currency backed by gold and foreign exchange holdings. It is pegged to a basket of currencies in which the dollar has the most weight. Kuwait's current account balance-of-payments surplus in 1983 was about $5.2 billion, of which $4.3 billion was the trade surplus.

Government revenues were $15.2 billion for the Kuwaiti fiscal year ending June 1984, down from the high of $25.5 billion in FY 1979–80. Expenditures were $10.7 billion, leaving a fairly typical surplus of $4.5 billion.

The government's two reserve funds, the Fund for Future Generations and the General Reserve Fund, totaled $75 billion by mid-1984; as much as $60 billion is invested abroad, of which about 60% is in dollars. Substantial funds are also invested in the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, France, and Japan. In order of importance, foreign assets are believed to be invested in stocks and bonds, fixed yield instruments (mostly short term) and real estate. Foreign investment by other government entities runs into the billions of dollars. Private investment abroad has been estimated at $22 billion.

Kuwait has been a major source of economic assistance to other Arab states through the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, an autonomous state institution created in 1961 on the pattern of Western and international development agencies. In 1974, the fund's lending mandate was expanded to include all—not just Arab—developing countries. By mid-1984 the fund had extended loans totaling $4.2 billion. In addition, substantial economic assistance has been provided through other channels to the "confrontation states" of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan and also to the Palestine Liberation Organization over the years, and to Iraq since the beginning of its war with Iran. After the 1978 Baghdad Arab Summit, assistance to Egypt was cut off due to its participation in the Camp David accords. Sizable assistance is also provided through Arab and other multilateral donors. Kuwait has continued major assistance programs in spite of the sharp drop in its oil earnings and its extraordinary financial assistance to Iraq.

Travel Notes

Customs: Visas should be obtained from the Embassy of Kuwait in Washington, DC or from its consulate in New York City. Importation of alcohol is forbidden. Cholera and yellow fever vaccinations are required of travelers coming from an infected area. Health requirements change; check latest information.

Climate and clothing: Wear lightweight clothing most of the year, except in the cool winter months. Dress should be conservative in public; dress for social functions is similar to that worn in the West.

Health: Many European doctors and a number of Western-trained Arab doctors practice in Kuwait.

Telecommunications: Local telephone service is good. Direct-dial international links are available to most countries, including the US. Satellite ground stations are in operation. Kuwait is eight time zones ahead of eastern standard time.

Transportation: Several airlines, including TWA, serve Kuwait from major cities in the US, Europe, the Near East, and South and East Asia. Most principal roads in Kuwait are at least four lanes. All-weather highways run north to Iraq and south to Saudi Arabia. Driving is on the right.

National holidays: New Year's Day (Jan. 1) and National Day (Feb. 25). Islamic holidays are based on the Islamic calendar and correspond to different days each year of the Western calendar. They include: Ascension Day, Eid Al-Fitr, Waqfa, Eid Al-Adha, Islamic New Year, and the Birth of the Prophet.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Following independence in June 1961, Kuwait faced a major foreign relations problem arising from the claim of the Iraqi Government to Kuwait's territory. The then Iraqi Government threatened invasion but was dissuaded by Britain's ready response to the Amir's request for assistance. Kuwait presented its case before the United Nations and preserved its sovereignty. British forces were later withdrawn and replaced by troops from Arab League countries, which in turn were withdrawn at Kuwait's request in January 1963.

Iraq's claims against Kuwait have moderated, but in March 1973, several incidents between border forces underlined Iraq's continuing nonacceptance of portions of the undemarcated boundary. In July 1977, the two countries agreed to withdraw their troops behind an agreed line and to establish ministerial and technical bilateral committees to discuss border matters, including demarcation. In late 1984, the Crown Prince/Prime Minister visited Baghdad and discussed border issues. Although the issues have not been fully resolved, the two countries enjoy friendly relations as of mid-1985.

Despite its improved relations with Iraq, Kuwait occupies an exposed and sensitive geographic position at the head of the Persian Gulf. In addition to the external pressures thus generated, Kuwait must deal with the presence of some 400,000 Palestinians and 300,000 Shi'a Muslims in a total population of only about 1.7 million. It gauges its policies to take into account the sometimes conflicting interests of its larger neighbors—Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia—and to remain within whatever consensus may exist among the Arab states on regional issues.

The most immediate current threat to Kuwaiti security is the Iran-Iraq war. Although Kuwait is formally neutral in the conflict, it has assisted Iraq through the transshipment of goods through its territory and through more than an estimated $6 billion in loans. This support made Kuwait subject to several acts of Iranian retaliation. In October 1981, an oil gathering center was bombed in northern Kuwait and in December 1983, a series of terrorist bombings took place which were directed at Kuwaiti installations and at the U.S. and French Embassies. Three employees of the U.S. Embassy died in the bombing, in addition to a Kuwaiti citizen and the suicide bomber. Several U.S. Embassy employees and others elsewhere were wounded. The government subsequently convicted 21 persons of complicity in the attacks, sentencing six to death (three in absentia). Most of those convicted were members of a pro-Iranian Shi'a Muslim group based in Iraq.

In December 1984, a Kuwait Airways airliner was hijacked to Tehran, and two U.S. Government employees were killed before the hijackers, who had reportedly demanded the release of those jailed in the December 1983 bombings, were taken by Iranian authorities. The Kuwaiti media was highly critical of the Iranian regime's performance during the hijacking.

The Kuwaiti response to current instability in the area has been to improve its own defense forces and cooperate more actively with its Gulf Arab neighbors. In early 1981, Kuwait

was a leader in forming the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman. In November 1984 at the GCC Summit in Kuwait, the member states announced the formation of a rapid deployment force to be based in Saudi Arabia, and efforts began aimed at linking the air defenses of the GCC countries. The GCC was also moving toward a common external tariff and free internal movement of goods, capital, and GCC citizens.

Kuwait consistently maintains that defense of GCC countries should be undertaken by these countries themselves without involvement from outside the region, particularly by the great powers. Kuwait is an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Kuwait established diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in 1963, and in 1964 the two countries signed an agreement for economic and technical cooperation. In recent years, Kuwait and East European countries have periodically exchanged high level visits. Kuwait also has full diplomatic relations with other communist countries, including the People's Republic of China.

DEFENSE

Kuwait maintains a small military force that includes army, navy, and air force units. A military modernization program is underway. The United Kingdom is the main supplier of defense equipment with a total of about $1.4 billion in sales to date. Several other countries, including the United States and France, have sold major items. Advisers from the United States and seconded personnel from the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Egypt, and Jordan provide technical expertise. Kuwait has purchased some arms from the Soviet Union. A separately organized National Guard maintains internal security. Police forces are under the Ministry of the Interior.

U.S.-KUWAITI RELATIONS

A U.S. consulate was opened at Kuwait in October 1951 and was elevated to embassy status at the time of Kuwait's independence 10 years later. The United States supports Kuwait's independence and closer cooperation among Gulf countries.

The United States has provided military and defense technical assistance to Kuwait from both foreign military sales (FMS) and commercial sources. All transactions have been by direct cash sale. The U.S. Liaison Office Kuwait (USLOK), attached to the American Embassy, manages the FMS program. By 1985, sales to Kuwait of defense articles and services under FMS totaled $1.5 billion. Principal U.S. military systems currently operated by the Kuwait Defense Forces are I-HAWK air defense missiles; A-4 Skyhawk tactical aircraft; sidewinder air-to-air missiles; 155mm SP howitzers; M113 armored personnel carriers; TOW anti-tank missiles; wheeled tactical vehicles; communications equipment; and an automated support system for management of supply, maintenance, personnel, and fiscal functions of the Kuwait Air Force (KAF). The United States is currently conducting an undergraduate pilot training program to train 150 KAF pilots over the next 2 years and is also assisting with development of a flight training facility in Kuwait, which should provide the Kuwaiti Government with an indigenous pilot training capability by 1988.

The United States is currently Kuwait's third largest supplier (after Japan and West Germany), and Kuwait is the fifth largest market in the Middle East for U.S. goods and services. U.S. exports to Kuwait, after exceeding $900 million in 1981 and 1982, fell to $741 million in 1983 and $635 million in 1984. Kuwait is a highly competitive market, sensitive to price. The strong U.S. dollar has made U.S. exports more expensive compared to products of most other countries, causing a shift away from American goods. Provided their prices are reasonable, American firms still have a competitive advantage in many areas requiring advanced technology such as oil field equipment and services, electric power generation and distribution equipment, telecommunications gear, and military equipment. Besides the strong American dollar, the most important disincentive for U.S. exports to Kuwait is the Arab boycott of Israel. At times, American firms have been caught between conflicting U.S. and Kuwaiti regulations regarding the boycott. Some of these conflicts have been resolved in ways that satisfy U.S. and Kuwaiti law, but others remain insoluble and have kept certain American firms out of the Kuwaiti market.

Further Information

These titles are provided as a general indication of material published on this country. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications.

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Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador—Anthony C.E. Quainton
Deputy Chief of Mission—Robert W. Holliday
Economic Officer—John Polansky
Commercial Officer—Harry Ryder
Consular Officer—Elizabeth Edwards
Public Affairs Officer (USIS)—Lee James Irwin
Chief, U.S. Liaison Office, Kuwait—Allen Wissinger

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait is located at Bneid al-Gar, Kuwait (opposite the Hilton Hotel).

The mailing address is P.O. Box 77, Safat, Kuwait, State of Kuwait (tel. 2424150–9; Telex: None, but Hilton Hotel will pass messages sent to 2039 HILTELS "PASS TO AMERICAN EMBASSY"). ■

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